

WANDERERS TAKE HOSPITAL CUP FROM THE 'REBELS'

Latest signing Lailey stars in 4-2-4 system

Slough Town 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2

SLOUGH TOWN'S two-year grip on the Westminster Hospital Cup was ended at the Dolphin on Wednesday evening, when Wycombe Wanderers gave a fighting and inspired display to lift the trophy.

Because of an injury to Tony Horseman, Wanderers used a 4-2-4 formation with Barry Baker and Dave Thomas as the midfield link. Wycombe's latest signing Julian Lailey made his first appearance and gave a very polished performance acting as the 'sweeper-up' behind Faulkner.

On this showing Lailey, who was with Marlow for a few years before going to Nottingham, will make a considerable improvement to Wanderers defence. Although on the small side he tackles strongly and uses the ball intelligently.

It took Wanderers only two minutes to open the scoring when Merrick pursued a long clearance from defence and 'keeper Lister could only push the ball clear. Payne, at outside-left, who had a brilliant opening 45 minutes, was facing the wrong way when he cheekily back-helled into the unguarded net.

OWN GOAL

Shocked by this early set-back Slough set-up a wave of attacks but their finishing lacked penetration. However, in the 10th minute they were on level terms when Vince Faulkner made a tragic mistake by putting a pass beyond Maskell's reach instead of doing the obvious and conceding a corner.

For the rest of the half both sides probed for another chink in the defensive armour with Payne causing havoc to the Slough defenders everytime he gained possession.

Within 40 seconds of the second half Maskell raced from his goal to rob Kent in full-flight, with a well-timed dive at his feet.

This was really the last occasion that Slough seriously troubled the Wanderers rear-guard as their play became ragged and scrappy. The 'Rebels' were obviously missing the mid-field finesse supplied by Terry Reardon who has moved to Chesham.

Although Slough lost their strongman in the defence John Delaney, Cotton substituted, just before the break they still operated their offside-trap which often caught Samuels and Payne in the web.

So complete was Wanderers' domination of the second half they should have been easy winners by a three-goal margin. However, poor refereeing and, to a certain extent, bad finishing denied them of this honour.

The deciding goal came in the 62nd minute when Thomas' corner was only partially cleared and

Thomas pouncing on the clearance centred again. Samuels sneaked the pass home from inside the six-yard box to give Wanderers a deserved victory.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; J. Lailey, V. Faulkner, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, L. Merrick, P. Payne.